

**CHARTER COMMISSION SWEARING-IN AND MEETING MINUTES**  
**WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 2010**  
**705 W. University Avenue, Council Auditorium**

**Commission members in attendance:** Odon Bacque, Dale Bourgeois, Karen Carson, Bruce M Conque, George A. Lewis, Greg Manual, Desmond Keith Miller, Stephen J. Oats, Aaron Walker

**Absent:** None

**Charter staff members in attendance:** Pat Ottinger (City-Parish Attorney), Tammy Pratt (Assistant City-Parish Attorney) and Vivian Neumann (Assistant City-Parish Attorney), Veronica L. Williams (Charter Commission Clerk)

**Council Members/Staff in attendance:** Chair Jay Castille, Brandon Shelvin, Sam Doré, Keith Patin, William Theriot, Council Clerk Norma Dugas

**Administration staff in attendance:** City-Parish President Joey Durel and Chief Financial Officer Becky Lalumia

**SWEARING-IN**

(Compact Disk #1)

Castille requested that the Charter Members step forward and recognized Clerk of Court Louis Perret to perform the swearing-in. Perret simultaneously gave the candidates the Oath of Office. Each new Commissioner signed the Clerk of Court's official log book and took their seat, their names being:

Odon Bacque • Dale Bourgeois • Karen Carson • Bruce M Conque •  
George A. Lewis • Greg Manual • D. Keith Miller • Stephen J. Oats • Aaron Walker

Castille thanked the Commissioners for volunteering their time and added that the Commission would be charged with the very important role of assessing how the City and Parish of Lafayette would be governed. Castille then recognized the staff, those members being: Pat Ottinger (City-Parish Attorney), Tammy Pratt (Assistant City-Parish Attorney), Vivian Neumann (Assistant City-Parish Attorney) and Veronica L. Williams (Charter Commission Clerk).

With the Swear-in completed, Castille called the meeting to order and opened nominations for the office of Chair of the Commission. Oats proposed that the Chair/Vice-Chair be appointed for a 2-month period; thereafter, the positions could be reviewed. Oats then nominated George A. Lewis, who was the sole nominee. Lewis was named Chair of the Commission by acclamation.

The floor was opened for nominations for the office of Vice-Chair. Oats nominated Bruce M Conque. Given there were no other nominations, Conque too was elected by acclamation. Castille congratulated Lewis (Chair) and Conque (Vice-Chair) and handed the gavel to Lewis to conduct the meeting. Lewis thanked his fellow Commissioners for their vote of confidence and added that he would bring information from all sides of the argument; he hoped all would listen to the input provided before coming to a conclusion; and finally, he had no agenda or political ambition.

As a means of obtaining input on Consolidation, Lewis proposed that the first few Commission meetings include presentations by City-Parish President Joey Durel, CAO Dee Stanley, the Council Members, Council Clerk and directors from the Administration. Thereafter, public comment would be requested, as well as an invitation extended to outside agencies and government officials who could offer comment and/or input about Consolidation.

Conque suggested that the Commission consider a proposal that would address the protocol for conducting meetings, similar to that of the Rules and Procedures utilized by the City-Parish Council. Ottinger (City-Parish Attorney) stated that a proposal was forthcoming.

Bacque reminded that Legal had previously suggested that the Commission take a week or two to get organized and Lewis concurred stating that it would take time to schedule and notify the various departments. Lewis stated that he would set up a meeting with the Administration/Council Chair by the end of the week to discuss a schedule for presentations.

Lewis asked for input on the next meeting date, reminding Commissioners that for the next 6-week period the Council would be conducting budget hearings and the use of the Auditorium would be limited. Conque noted the advantages of having Commission meetings in the Council Auditorium, in that it was set-up for live meeting broadcasts on Acadiana Open Channel (AOC), had the proper recording devices as well as other equipment favorable to conducting formal meetings.

The consensus of the Commission was to meet on Mondays at 5:30 p.m. After reviewing dates that Auditorium was available, the next meeting was set for Monday, August 2, 2010 in the Council Auditorium.

Inasmuch as he would be out of the Country for a 3-week period, Bacque requested that the Commission discuss a standing rule on the number of allowable missed meetings by an individual Commissioner. After discussion, the consensus was that a Commissioner could not miss three (3) consecutive meetings or a total of five (5) Regular meetings. The proposed rule would be added for consideration under the Rules and Procedures. Should removal of a Commissioner be required, Castille stated that the process would follow State Law in that a new appointment would be made by the Charter Commission, in lieu of the Council.

Ottinger reminded that the original ordinance forwarded to the City-Parish Council proposed that the Charter Commission make that appointment; however, the ordinance was amended at final adoption giving the Council authority to make the new appointment. Ottinger advised that an amendment following State Law would be forwarded to the Council Office in that the Charter Commission would fill any vacancies.

Carson asked how could a Commissioner, who was unable to attend a meeting, review the missed meeting and Williams (Charter Commission Clerk) responded that a DVD, CD and a synopsis of the meetings would be available for review.

Oats requested that the Legal Department provide the Commissioners with a copy of the PowerPoint presentation given during the Orientation Session. Ottinger stated that he would provide a copy.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.